

# Iowa Amber Alert Plan

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Government Oversight Committee

June 21 2005

Iowa State Capitol

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# Overview of the Iowa Plan

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- History
  - Testing and Implementation
  - TEAM Members
  - Process review/critique
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# HISTORY

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- The AMBER Alert System began in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help find abducted children. AMBER stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response and was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. Other states and communities soon set up their own AMBER plans as the idea was adopted across the nation.
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## Iowa History

**AMBER Alert**

**AMERICA'S MISSING: BROADCAST EMERGENCY RESPONSE**



Members representing  
Different organizations  
Meet at Iowa State Patrol  
Post #1. Commissioner  
Kevin Techau  
Kicks off the meeting.



In August 2002, Governor Thomas J. Vilsack called on the Iowa Department of Public Safety to begin the process of organizing local and state law enforcement and the Iowa broadcast and media community to formulate an Iowa Amber Alert plan. During the first week of September 2002, Commissioner Kevin W. Techau invited Iowa law enforcement associations, broadcast and media, emergency management coordinators to examine the process needed within Iowa to implement a successful Amber Alert Program. On November 15, 2002 the Amber Alert Committee submitted a report outlining an Iowa Amber Alert Plan to Governor Vilsack.

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**wsuiam910**  
**ksui91.7fm**

**Public Radio**

Services of The University of Iowa  
<http://wsui.uiowa.edu>

**National Center for Missing And Exploited Children**  
1-800-THE-LOST



**Department of Public Health**  
*Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans*



Iowa Department of  
**TRANSPORTATION**

Iowa Department of Transportation

# TESTING

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- The Iowa Amber Alert Committee scheduled the first test of the Iowa plan on Tuesday February 4th 2003.
  - The plan became operational March 13<sup>th</sup> 2003.
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Iowa's AMBER Alert Plan became effective March 13, 2003 making Iowa the 36th state to adopt an AMBER Alert Plan. Commissioner Kevin W. Techau, Iowa Department of Public Safety, along with members of the [coordinating committee](#) held a press conference in the Wallace Building Auditorium to explain the procedure developed for Iowa and announce that the plan is now operational. Tests of the system have been successful. Training sessions instructed Iowa's Law Enforcement Agencies on how to use the AMBER Alert Plan and the [criteria](#) that is to be followed.

# The IOWA AMBER Alert Plan

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**AMBER ALERT**

NLETS Public awareness website EAS/CAE

Missing persons clearing house

NCIC National Weather Service

Broadcasters

NCMEC State Lottery

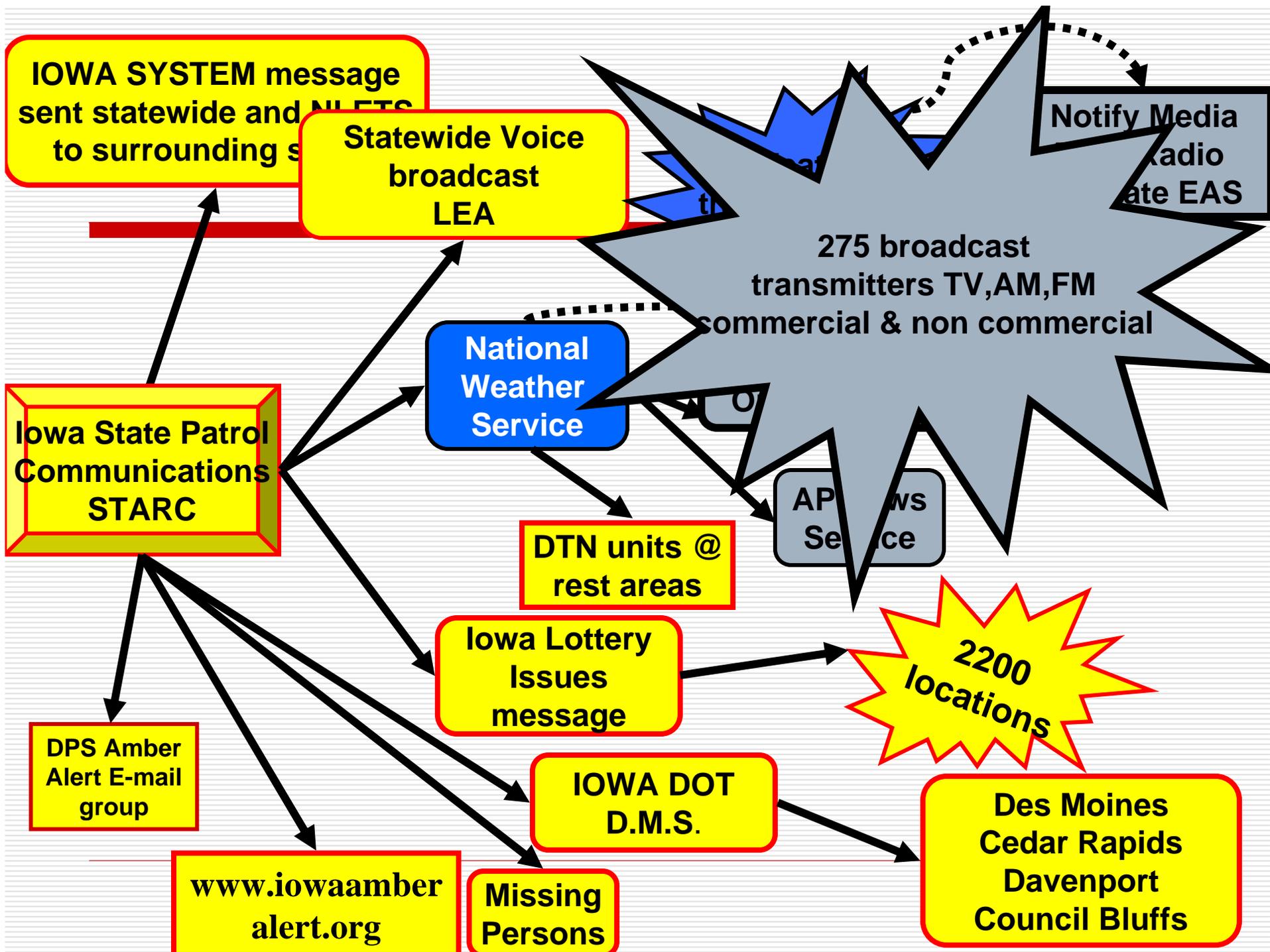
Print Media

Voice radio systems

Dept of Transportation

Secondary Notifications

Law Enforcement State L/E data network



# Future Enhancements

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## **DOT Future Projects**

- Additional DMS signs
- 511
- Highway Advisory Radio System

## **DPS Future Projects**

- Automated public e-mail notification system
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# IOWA AMBER Alert Criteria

- Law enforcement must confirm a child has been **abducted**.
- The child is under the age of **18**.
- The circumstances surrounding the **abduction** indicate that the child is in danger of **serious bodily harm** or **death**.

What causes you to believe the child is in danger?

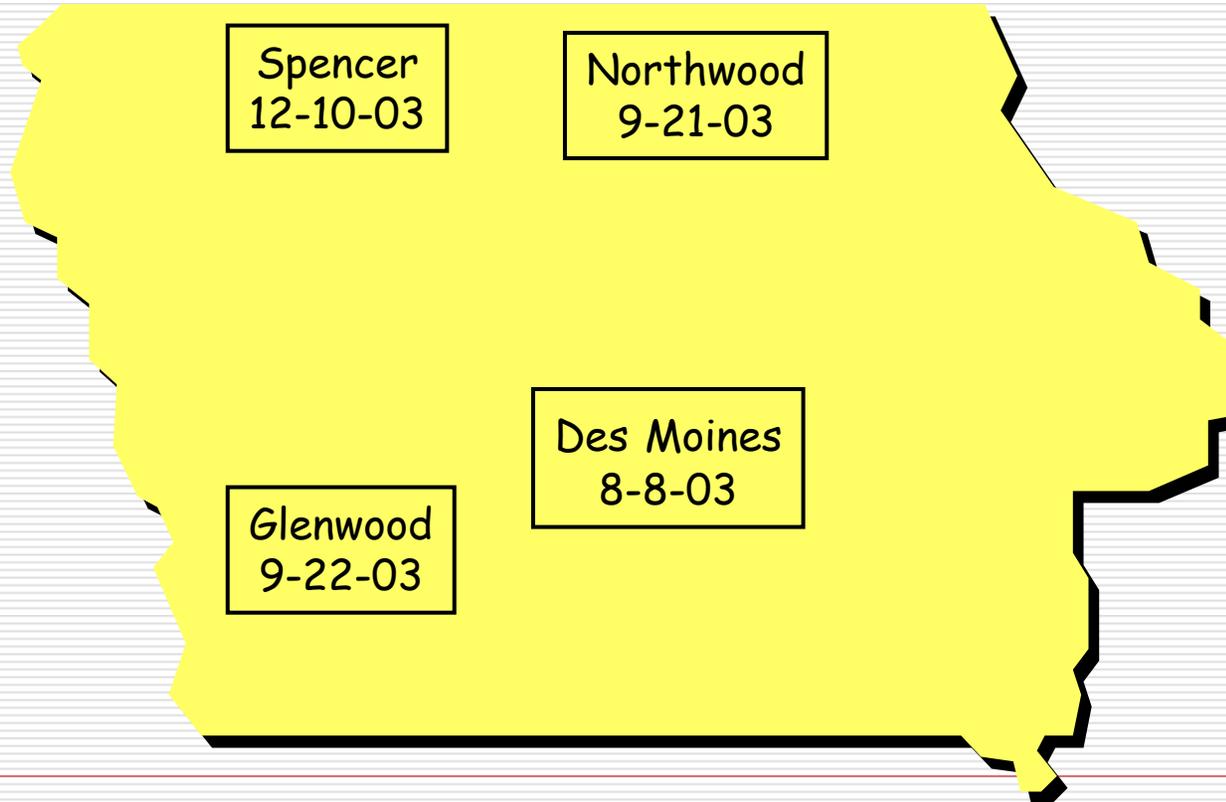
When you locate the child and whoever they are with, will you make an arrest and file charges ?

- There is enough **descriptive information** about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.

**STARC Communications 1-515-323-4360**

# IOWA AMBER ALERT YEAR IN REVIEW

2002-2003

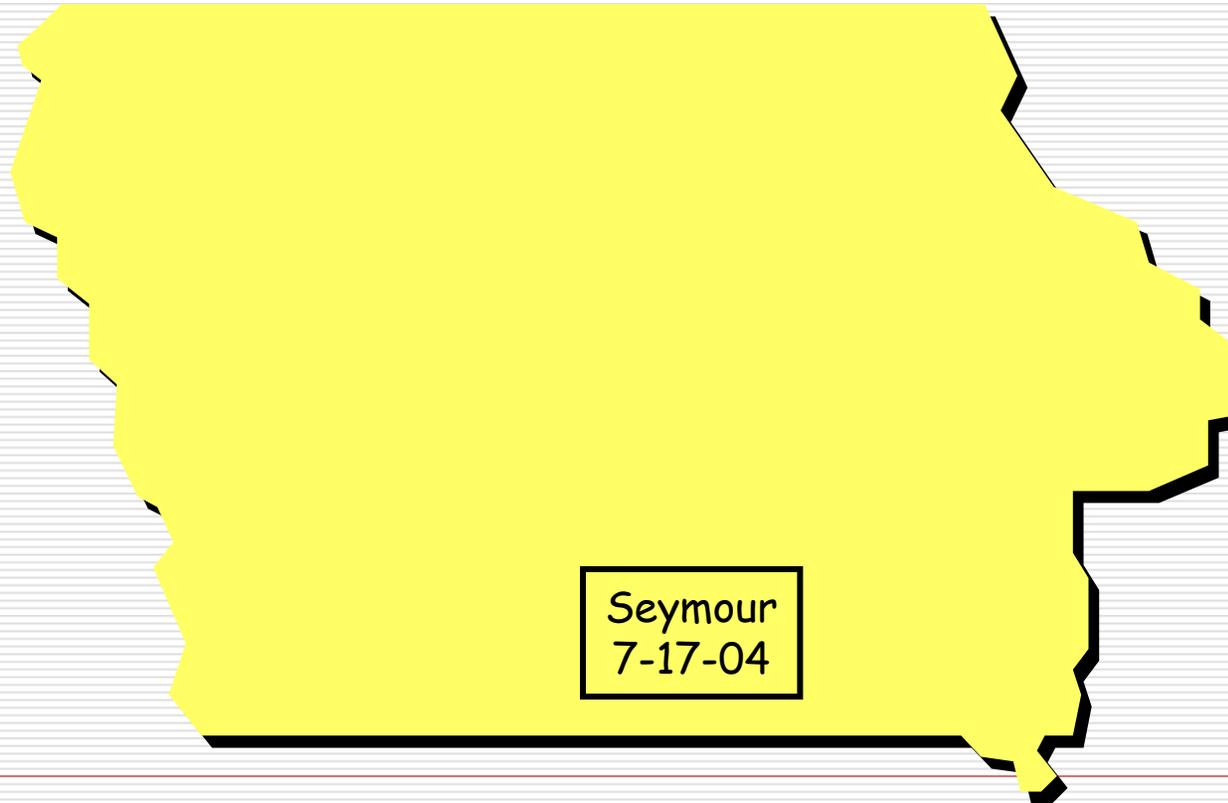


[WWW.IOWAAMBERALERT.ORG](http://WWW.IOWAAMBERALERT.ORG)

# IOWA AMBER ALERT YEAR IN REVIEW

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2004-2005

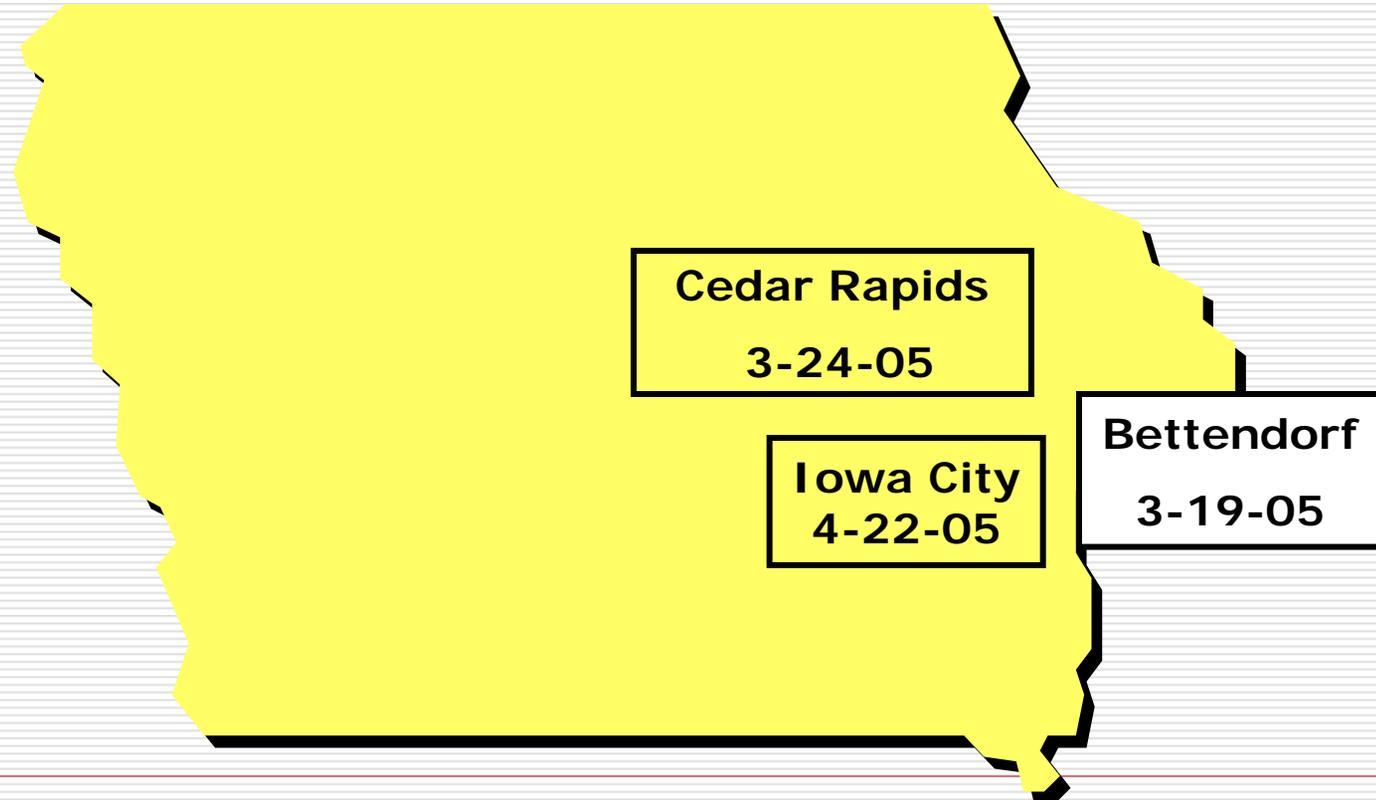
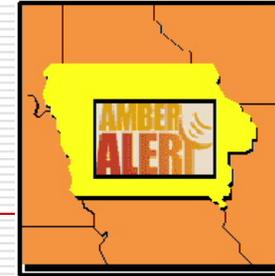


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# IOWA AMBER ALERT 2005

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Cedar Rapids 3-24-05/ Jetseta Gage

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Activation was on 3-24-05

Review Committee met with Cedar Rapids P.D. on April 7<sup>th</sup>

The Steering Committee met on April 8th to cover the items discussed at CRPD the day before.

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## Cedar Rapids 3-24-05 / Jetseta Gage

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- ❑ Received initial call from Cedar Rapids P.D. @10:35p.m. about a possible Amber Alert
  - ❑ Received FAX @11:14p.m. confirming all criteria.
  - ❑ Sent message to the IOWA System @ 11:36p.m.
  - ❑ 22 minutes to get the alert out.
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# Post Activation Debriefing

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Iowa DOT reviewed technology upgrade processes and increased notification redundancy.

National Weather Service changed computer coding as a result of discussions during our April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The DPS will include the media notification group in our Initial e-mail message

The AMBER Alert located the suspect in this case.

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# Questions ?

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# Thank You

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Captain Todd A. Misel  
Iowa State Patrol Communications Officer  
Wallace State Office Bldg  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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